

*This title page should have before W. 12.
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LETTER ^{13.}
OF
ADVICE to a FRIEND
About the
CURRENCY
OF
Clipp-Money

WHEREIN

All the Material Clauses contain'd in the several *Acts* made in these two last Sessions of Parliament, for the Cure of that Evil, are recited.

Now printed for the Use of the Pullick.

The Second Edition.

To which is annex'd the *Declaration* publish'd by Queen *Elizabeth*, upon her Reforming the COIN.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Edw. Castle* next *Scotland Yard* Gate, near *White-hall*. 1696.

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The Summarie of certaine Reasons, which have moved Quene Elizabeth to procede in reformations of her base and course monies, and to reduce them to their values, in sorte as they may be turned to fine monies.

Appointed to be declared by her Maiestie, by order of her Proclamation, in her Citie of London.

First of all it is knowen that the honour and reputation of the singuler wealth that this Realm was wont to have aboue all other Realms, was partely in that it had no currant monies but golde and silber, whereas contrary all other countreys, as Almayn, ffrance, Spaine, fflaunders, Scotland, and the rest of Chzistendom have had, and still have certain base monies now of late dayes, by turning of fine monies, into base, much decayed and dayly growen into infamie and reproche, and therfore is thought necessary to be recovered. Wherin lyke as her Majestie for her part meaneth to be at great charges, so every good Englishe subiede ought to be content, though it seme some smal losse at the first.

Also by continuing of the base monies, divers persons both in forreine partes, and within the Realme, have counterfayted from tyme to tyme no small quantitie, and brought to porte townes, and uttered the same at the pryse after the rate of xii. pence a Teston, and after that for vi. pence: where the same was not in dede worth aboue two pence: And caried out of the Realme for those base monies, the riche commodities of the same, as Wolle, Cloth, Lead, Tinne, Leather,

ther, Tallowe, yea and all kinde of victual, as Cozne, Salt, Beere, Butter, Cheefe, and such lyke, so as counterfeiters and such like, have for small summe of monies counterfained, caried out six times the value in commodities of the Realme.

By the means also that these base monies were current, divers subtyll people have chaunged the same for the golde and fine sylver monies of this Realme, and have transported and carped out the same golde and sylver, so as although there hath ben coyned both in the last end of the reign of Kyng Edward, and in the tyme of Quene Mary, and now also sence the Quenes Maiesties raigne, great quantities of golde and sylver, yet no part thereof is sene commonly current: but as it may be thought, some part thereof is carped hence, and some percase by the wyser sort of people, kepte in store, as it were to be wished that the whole were.

Also by continuance of this sort of base monies, although almyghtie God hath geven nowe of late yeres plentifull increase by the earth, for the which he is to be thanked, without any such plagis of scarcitye as in our forefathers tyme hath bene read, when many hundrethes and thousandes of people have dyed for famine, yet the prices of all thynges growinge or cominge from the earth, hath immeasurably and dayly risen, as all maner of grayne, fruite, cattell, bestiall, victual, wolles, leather, and such like, and no remedye could be deuysed to amend the same, but to cause that the same base monies shuld be current for no more then they were in iust value. For every man of the least understanding, by one means or other knoweth that a Teston was not worth six pence, nor the price of two pence was worth so much, and therefore no man woulde geve gladly that thing which was and ever had ben worth six pence, for a Teston, but would rather require two Testons: and so a thyng being worth six pence, was bought and sold eyther for two Testons, or one and a halfe, which was in reckenyng xii. or ix. pence, and now every Teston being

ing brought to the iust value, it must needs follow that one shal buy of another hereafter that for iiii. pence half-penny, which was wont to cost vi. pence. And when the Weston shalbe brought into fine sylber, then shall all men be as desyrours to sell any ware for suche fine monies, as they have of late ben loth and unwylyng to sell any thyng for the base monies, except they myght haue had twyce as much of the base monies, as they were wont to haue of the fine, or els that for necessitie they were dyuen to sell the same.

By this meanes also now that the base monies are brought to the iust value, and that every man shall have fine monies for them, all pooze people that lyved of theyr hand labour, aswell artificers in cities or townes, as labourers in husbandrye, or men that toke dayetall wages, eyther by land, by sea, or by freshe waters, and all meane gentlemen that liued but upon pensions and stipendes, and all soloours and seruyng men, that liued upon solde and wages, shall have theyr pensions, stipendes, soldes, and wages, now payde in good and fine monies, and therewith shall bye moze necessities for theyr sustentacion, then could afore be bought: who surely hauyng heretofore after the rate of xx.s. xxvi.s. viii.d. v. nobles. xl.s. ib. marks, v. marks, ib. pounds, v. pounds, xx. nobles, and so upward, by the yere payde to them in these base monies, could not haue so much vitual, apparel, weapon, armure, horses, or such lyke, with the said stipend, by moze than a fourth part, as they shall now haue, because in dede the saide base monies were of themselves no moze worth.

By this reformation also of base monies shall necessarily folowe a moze profitable accompte betwixt the monies of this Realme, and of other countries, and thereby the accompte which by marchauntes is called the eschaunge, shall also aryse in estimation of the monies of Englande, in suche sorte as in former tymes hath ben, and the fozeine commodities thereby also be bought for easyer ppyles, to the benefit of. all suche as shall use the same.

So as the matter well considered, the greatest numbze, and especially the poozeff shall haue most commoditie hereby, yea and such others as haue moste gaped by excelliue prices, shall haue also, (if they will consider themselves) no small profyte and helpe. And finally no manner of person in the whole Realme shall haue after one or two monethes hurt hereby, except onely the traytour which hath liued by counterfaying. And therfore it is to be allowed and imbraced of all people, and euerpe man to thinke, that although at the first he may suppose that he hath lesse monie in his purse, yet shall he haue for the same metal, as much as that was worth, eyther in ware, or at her Maiesties mint in fine monies. And whensoeuer he shall utter that base monies, which at the tyme of the Proclamation he hadde, the nexte that he shall gette, eyther by his hand labour, or for his wages, shalbe eyther fine monies, or such as he may haue as much fine monies in the mint for it. And consequently every man ought to thank almyghtye God, that he may liue to see the honour of his countrey thus partely recovered: Sylber to come in place of Copper, pces of thynges amende, all people to be moze able to liue of theyr wages, every mans purse or coffer made free from the pze these, which was the counterfaytour. And finally, the treasure of this Realme to be of sylber and golde, as was wonte in our forefathers time, and not of bzasse and copper, besydes many other great commodities that hereof must needs ensue, which but for length might be declared, and for all the same, no lesse to any otherwise, but in opinion at the begynnyng, not much unlyke to them, that being sicke receive a medicine, and in the takyng feele some bitterness, but yet thereby recover health and strength, and save theyr liues.

And because it is sene by experience, that many tymes when good things be deuyled and attempted, the Deuyl Reapeth not, to hinder the same, but causeth them eyther to be defeated, or to be defamed and mistaken: Therfore it is meete that no maner of person gyue
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any credite to such as shall caste abzode any mistrust of amendment of the money, or shall pretend this decree to be greater or moze burdenous then it is. For truly this amendment is so fully purposed by her Maiestie, as beside that, experience shall trie it within one moneth or vi. weekes, within which times necessarie things for the mint must be pꝛouided. It is sene, that her Maiestie may resourme these monies, according to her Proclamation, without any such great losse as might moue her to forbear it: And on the other syde, the monies be so iustly valued, as indeede the base Testons beyng set at ii. d. farthyng, and her Maiestie giuing at her minte, for every pound of them xx.s. and iii.d. in rewards, shall therby gyue rather moze than they shall be worth beyng melted, than lesse.

So that her Maiestie, who since she came to this Crowne, neuer gayned any thing by any coyngage, nor yet euer coynd any maner of base monies for this Realme, will not now determine to lease the honour and fame that she shall with small losse or gayne recouer by this noble act, to benefite her Realme and people.

And as to the opinion of the burden of the losse, where the base Testons be valued but at ii d. farthing, whereby such as have them shall seme to have the greatest losse, it is to be well and reasonably construed and taken of all men, for that there hath not by good account which hath bene made and well pꝛobed, bene above a sixth parte compared to the other base Monies of the same sort of Testons coined in the Mints of this Realm, and at the Coinage of the same base Testons now valued at two pence farthing, which was done in the time of the Wars heretofore, there were set thereto certain marks, as a Lion, a Rose, a Flour de luce, or a Harp, called the pꝛivy marks of such as were then Masters of the Mint, which also be specified in the Proclamation. For the better understanding whereof, here be in the end of this Declaration set certain Stamps or Mints, of every kind of the same base Testons, with their said seuerall marks, to the intent that every person looking and beholding the same Mints, may

may the better judge and discern the same from the other, that be valued at *iiii. pence halfpenny*, although if the same be well considered, the colour of the sayde base Teston will shew the falseness thereof: And because her Majesty meaneth to ease her Subjects as much as possible may be, she is pleased to command her Officers in her mint, that where there be many counterfeit Testons, which were made by counterfeitours, when the Testons were at the value of *xii. pence a piece*, and since also that they were decreed to *vi. pence*, and by estimation were so made, as they did contain about *two pence farthing* or thereabouts in silver: They shall do their indeavour to receave and tye such counterfeites, and shall give to the Subjects either for every such counterfeit *two pence farthing*, or so much good fine monies, as the same counterfeites shall contain in silver, whereby the people shall be relieved of such losse in some part for counterfeites, as in no Realm any Prince either hath or ought to do. And for this and for all the rest of the commodities hereof likely to ensue: Her Majesty trusteth her most honourable good meaning shall be imbrased of all her good loving Subjects, and every person with good will, will yield to bear a small burden for a time, to avoid a perpetual and endless oppression, not only of themselves and their Posterity, but also of the whole Commonwealth.

Given under the Queen's Majesty's Signet at her Honour of Hampton-Court, the *29th. of September*, the second Year of her Majesty's Reign, MDLX.

N. B. The Stamps or Prints of the base Testons, which were printed at the End of the Declaration, are now omitted, because there has been no such Coin in use these many Years; and therefore it would have been of no use to have printed them.

